

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19

OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 /187 W
----- 015231

O P 201120Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1726

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 9724

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, BG, PK, IN

SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF BENGALIS AND PAKISTANIS

REF: GENEVA 4993

1. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED SEPT. 20
FROM UNHCR PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN TO SECSTATE WHICH
WAS DELIVERED TO MISSION TODAY BY DEPUTY HCR.

QUOTE. I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE APPEAL LAUNCHED
ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1973 BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR UNITED
NATIONS ASSISTANCE TO THE SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT, IN
PARTICULAR TO PERMIT THE MOVEMENT OF OVER TWO HUNDRED
THOUSAND PERSONS FROM BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN TO THEIR
RESPECTIVE HOMELANDS. THE SEC GEN, AS INDICATED IN HIS
APPEAL, HAS REQUESTED MY OFFICE TO ACT AS EXECUTING
AGENT FOR THIS OPERATION.

THE TEXT OF THE APPEAL IS ATTACHED TOGETHER WITH AN
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AIDE MEMOIRE BY MY OFFICE CONTAINING MORE DETAILED

INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT.

AS SHOWN IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE, THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE OPERATION AMOUNTS TO APPROXIMATELY US \$14,300,000. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS TARGET BE MET SPEEDILY AND IN FULL IN ORDER TO AVOID A DELAY OR SCALE-DOWN OF THE OPERATION. THIS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL NOT ONLY TO THE PERSONS INVOLVED, BUT ALSO TO THE ROLE THIS LARGE-SCALE REPATRIATION OPERATION MAY PLAY IN CREATING CONDITIONS CONDUCIVE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE SUB-CONTINENT. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED ITS CONCERN FOR THIS HUMANITARIAN UNDERTAKING THROUGH ITS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION OF \$150,000 FOR THE PRELIMINARY REPATRIATION OPERATIONS WHICH WERE CONFINED TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONS. IN RENEWING OUR SINCERE THANKS FOR THIS SUPPORT, MAY I EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL NOW FIND IT POSSIBLE TO MAKE AN EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE LARGE-SCALE OPERATION NOW TO BE UNDERTAKEN AND FOR WHICH THIS GENERAL APPEAL IS BEING MADE.

MAY I ADD THAT, IN ADDITION TO FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION, CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND IN THE FORM OF SUITABLE MEANS OF TRANSPORT REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION WILL BE MOST HELPFUL.

IN VIEW OF THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE HISTORIC DELHI AGREEMENT AND THE GRAVE PROBLEMS WHICH THIS AREA OF THE WORLD IS FACING, I TRUST THAT THE REPATRIATION OPERATION WILL RECEIVE THE READY AND GENEROUS SUPPORT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SO THAT, ONCE AGAIN, THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS AFFECTING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN MAY BE SOLVED THROUGH CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN.

END QUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH WAS ATTACHED TO HCR'S LETTER.

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QUOTE.

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES WISHES TO BRING TO THE URGENT ATTENTION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT THE FRAMEWORK AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LARGE-SCALE REPATRIATION OPERATION RESULTING FROM THE DELHI AGREEMENT OF 28 AUGUST 1973. THE UN SEC GEN, ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1973, COMMUNICATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THE NEEDS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

IN THE SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT. A COPY OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS ANNEXED HERETO. THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED HAVE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE INTER ALIA FOR THE MOVEMENT OF OVER TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PERSONS FROM BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN TO THEIR RESPECTIVE HOMELANDS IN THE HOPE OF A SWIFT AND GENEROUS RESPONSE TO THIS HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE SECGEN TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARRYING OUT THE TRANSFER TO THESE PERSONS.

TO RECAPITULATE BRIEFLY THE BACKGROUND OF THE UN ACTION IN THIS FIELD, IT IS RECALLED THAT, FOLLOWING A VISIT WHICH THE SECGEN MADE TO THE SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT EARLY IN 1973, A REQUEST WAS MADE TO THE UN FOR ARRANGEMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TO THEIR RESPECTIVE HOMES, OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONS. THE SECGEN REQUESTED THE HCR TO ACT AS "EXECUTING AGENT" FOR THIS LIMITED OPERATION. THE HCR VISITED PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH AND HAD DISCUSSIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL PRINCIPALLY TO DETERMINE THE OPERATIONAL MODALITIES. A MODEST BEGINNING WAS THEN MADE BY THE AIRLIFT OF A FEW HUNDRED BENGALI SEAMEN AND STUDENTS FROM PAKISTAN TO BANGLADESH. PARALLEL TO THIS, AND IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, THE HCR ASSISTED IN THE MOVEMENT OF SOME TWO THOUSAND PAKISTANIS STRANDED IN NEPAL. THEY WERE FLOWN FROM KATHMANDU TO KARACHI. SINCE THEN, THE HCR HAS STARTED A RELATIVELY LARGER OPERATION ON A TRINGULAR ROUTE, KARACHI-DACCA-KATHMANDU-KARACHI MOVING FIVE THOUSAND BENGALIS FROM PAKISTAN TO BANGLADESH AND FIVE THOUSAND STRANDED PAKISTANIS FROM NEPAL TO PAKISTAN. THIS OPERATION, CARRIED OUT WITH A UNHCR CHARTERED AIRCRAFT, WAS STARTED ON 28 AUGUST 1973. IT IS STILL CONTINUING WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON OVERFLYING RIGHTS AND TECHNICAL LANDINGS, AND WITH THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS WHICH HAS UNDERTAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REGISTRATION OF REPATRIANTS AND FOR LOCAL, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.

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THESE OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE HCR PARTLY WITH LIMITED AD HOC FUNDS AND PARTLY BY USING FUNDS TEMPORARILY AVAILABLE.

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ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19

OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 /187 W

----- 015288

O P 201120Z SEP 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1727

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 9725

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FOLLOWING THE DELHI AGREEMENT, AND IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ASSISTANCE BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, THE SEC GEN ASKED THE HCR TO CONTINUE HIS ROLE OF EXECUTING AGENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE LARGE NUMBERS OF PERSONS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT. IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEX LOGISTICS INVOLVED IN MOVING SUCH LARGE NUMBERS SWIFTLY AND THE CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE OPERATION, THE HCR MADE A CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF THE NEEDS. ON THE BASIS OF THE AVAILABLE OPTIONS AS REGARDS MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION (SEA AND AIR), THE TIME LIMIT OF THE OPERATION, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE PREVIOUS REPATRIATION OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE HCR'S OFFICE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT, THE TOTAL COST OF THE TRANSPORTATION IS ESTIMATED AT US\$14.3 MILLION. THIS INCLUDES PROCESSING COSTS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE AS WELL AS RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT EXPENDITURES; THE LATTER ARE NOT EXPECTED TO EXCEED 4 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT, SHOULD AIRCRAFT OR SHIPS SUITABLE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS OPERATION BE MADE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE BY GOVERNMENTS, THE TOTAL COST OF THE OPERATION WOULD BE CORRESPONDINGLY REDUCED, THOUGH IT IS PREMATURE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORECAST ALL SUCH VARIABLE ELEMENTS, INCLUDING TRANSPORT, NUMBERS AND TIME FACTORS.

ONE NEED HARDLY STRESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DELHI AGREEMENT

WHICH, AS THE SECGEN HAS INDICATED IN HIS COMMUNICATION, IS A CORNERSTONE IN BUILDING A STRUCTURE OF DURABLE PEACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT. IN THE LIGHT OF THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF SUCH LARGE-SCALE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATIONS IN GENERATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF RECONCILIATION IN THE SUB-CONTINENT AS FORESEEN BY THE DELHI AGREEMENT, THE HCR TRUSTS THAT GOVERNMENTS WOULD WISH TO CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY AND SWIFTLY TO THIS IMPORTANT HUMANITARIAN ACTION.

END QUOTE.

3. DEPUTY HCR INFORMED MISOFF THAT UNHCR CONFIDENT THAT GOVERNMENTS OTHER THAN USA WILL MEET TWO-THIRDS OF \$14.3 MILLION BUDGET FOR THIS OPERATION AND HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD COVER REMAINING THIRD. BOTH HCR AT INFORMAL MEETING YESTERDAY AND DEPUTY HCR DURING VISIT TO MISSION TODAY STRESSED URGENT NEED FOR INITIAL PAYMENTS FROM GOVERNMENTS TO FINANCE THIS REPATRIATION PROGRAM.

4. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DEPARTMENT'S URGENT ADVICE CONCERNING EXTENT USG'S FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM AND INDICATION OF TIMING FOR PAYMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION, REFUGEES, POPULATION MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GENEVA04999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730922/aaaaapyu.tel
Line Count: 246
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GENEVA 4993
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <04-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPATRIATION OF BENGALIS AND PAKISTANIS
TAGS: SREF, BG, PK, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005